



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY NAMES NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Former Oceanside Library Director José Aponte to lead County system

José A. Aponte, a former Oceanside Library Director and nationally recognized leader in his field, has been selected director of the County of San Diego Library system.

County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Alex Martinez announced Aponte's appointment today. Aponte, 54, is replacing Marilyn Crouch, who retired in December.

"I am very pleased to welcome José to the County family," said Martinez. "He has twenty-eight years of library experience, has served on national commissions and is very familiar with the region. Library patrons are going to benefit tremendously from having such an experienced, visionary person leading our system."

Aponte's first day on the job will be March 28. He will take over a system that has 32 branch libraries, two mobile libraries and circulates more than 4.8 million books, magazines and audio-visual materials a year.

"The county library is a thread that helps pull together the county strategic plan -- excellence in service to children, preserving the environment and creating safe and livable communities," Aponte said. "Libraries help promote those goals."

Aponte is a member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. President Bush appointed him to the Commission in 2004. In 2002, he was appointed to the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries.

Since January 2003, Aponte has served as Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Library District in El Paso County, Colorado. From 2000 to 2002, he was Deputy City Manager of the city of Oceanside. From 1996 to 2000, he was the Library Director for the city of Oceanside.

Aponte has also been an administrator and worked in library systems in West Palm Beach, Florida; San Juan Capistrano, Santa Barbara and Tucson, Arizona. He is fluent in Spanish.

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